



# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

WATER TESTING PERFORMED IN 2016

*Presented By*



**CITY OF  
GALLUP**

## We've Come a Long Way

We are pleased to present to the citizens of Gallup, our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2016. Over the years we have pledged to produce drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. The Council and I want to assure you that we continually strive to implement new methods for delivering the best quality drinking water to you. As new requirements to drinking water safety become known, we continue to monitor and persevere in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.



Please share with us your thoughts or concerns about the information in the report. After all, informed customers are our best allies.

Jackie McKinney  
*Mayor*

## Public Meetings

The Water Systems Department encourages you to participate in decisions affecting drinking water. You are invited to attend regular City Council meetings on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month to voice your concerns about drinking water. City Council meets at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 110 West Aztec Avenue, Gallup, New Mexico. Meeting dates and times are published in local newspapers, and agendas may be obtained from the City Clerk's office.

The public is invited to attend and participate in City of Gallup Sustainable Board meetings held the first Monday of every month from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the City Manager's Conference Room, located at 110 West Aztec, to discuss current water issues and make recommendations to the City Council.

To find out more about the City of Gallup, visit our Web page at <http://www.gallupnm.gov>. You may also find information on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) water information Web site at <http://water.epa.gov/drink/index.cfm>.

## QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Ernest Thompson, Water Department Superintendent, at (505) 863-1289.

## Substances That Could Be in Water

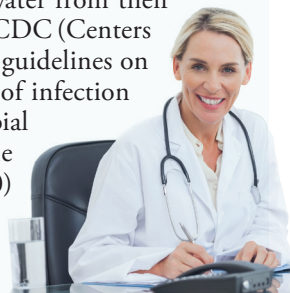
To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances that may be present in source water include: Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife; Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; Pesticides and Herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses; Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.



## Where Does My Water Come From?

Gallup's water is produced from 16 wells tapping underground supplies from two main underground aquifers: the Gallup Sandstone and the Dakota-Westwater. The Dakota-Westwater Aquifer is separated from the Gallup Sandstone by a massive shale layer known as the Mancos Shale. The Gallup Sandstone is the shallower of the two and is several hundred feet thick. The wells are located up to 10 miles from the city center and range from 300 to 3,500 feet deep. They receive no recharge from surface sources (such as rain or snow) immediately above the well site. Being confined and not being in immediate contact with surface water, these aquifers are well-protected from contamination by surface sources in the vicinity of the well sites. Water is collected from these underground supplies then pumped to eight storage tanks. Gravity and pumps move water to our homes and businesses. Many of the water system's components – wells, pipes, storage tanks, and pumps – are old and deteriorating, so a great deal of resources is used to keep water flowing.

Our underground water is being used up. It is not replaced from natural sources. City water shortages in the not-too-distant future are predicted by experts. Our limited and uncertain water supply limits possibilities for growth, economic development, and new jobs. The City has worked to find new sources of water since early in our history. In recent years, water conservation has been recognized as the most cost-effective "source" of water.

A Water Conservation Program is administrated by the Water Conservation Coordinator at the Utilities and Engineering Service. This person administers a number of water-saving programs that have helped replace high-flow toilets, shower heads, clothes washers, and restaurant dishwashing equipment. Another program encourages replacement of private and public lawns and high water-use type landscaping, and use of the rain and snow water for landscaping and gardening. The coordinator also works with schools, businesses, and community groups to make people aware of our water problems and to suggest solutions. The coordinator will inspect businesses and make suggestions for improvements to equipment and landscaping, which will reduce water use and cost. These programs are believed to aid in the water consumption reduction and has lowered the City's cost to pump and distribute water as well as saving water for future use.

Utilities and Engineering Service is using a technology to understand and operate the water system effectively. A computerized control system using sensing equipment and radio communications continuously track the operating conditions at wells, pumps, water tanks, and other equipment, allowing utility personnel to operate the water system efficiently and to identify problems like water line breaks or developing pump problems. A computerized mapping system is also being developed.

## Important Information about your Drinking Water

### Monitoring requirements not met for Gallup Water System

Our water system violated drinking water requirements during the past. Even though this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have the right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During the 2013 to 2015 monitoring period and during 2016 we did not complete all the monitoring requirements for Lead and Copper, therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

### What should you do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

Below lists the contaminants we did not properly test for during the past, how often we are supposed to sample, how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should be taken, and the date on which follow-up samples will be taken.

Lead and Copper are to be sampled every 3 years at 30 locations, we sampled 29 samples from June to July 2015 plus 1 sample from May 2015. All samples are to be sampled From June to September 2013, 2014, 2015 Or 2016. 1 of the 30 samples required was sampled outside of our Sampling schedule so that sample does not count. Even though all sample results were below the Maximum Contaminate Level for Lead and copper we did not meet the required 30 samples for Lead and Copper.

### What is being done?

Follow-up samples will be taken during June to September 2017, at that time the water system will be back in compliance.

### For more information, please contact:

Mr. Ernest Thompson at 505-863-1207 or at  
Gallup Water System, WSS # NM3508317  
P.O.Box 1270  
Gallup, NM 87305





## It's a SMART IDEA...

Consider signing up for (5) water & energy saving rebates for City of Gallup Utility customers:

1. \$100 or \$75 utility bill credit for replacing older than 1994, water guzzling **Toilets & Showerhead Rebate** - Commercial customers can get a \$ 75 credit per toilet, while Residential customers can get a \$100 utility bill credit for the first toilet, \$75 for the second, and \$50 for the third toilet; with new WaterSense certified toilets. Saving \$ on your utility bill, a family of four can re-pay a new toilet price in 2 to 3 years, while saving more in the future.
2. \$100 utility bill credit for switching out old **Clothes Washers**
3. \$30 utility bill credit for replacing **Refrigerators** with new high efficient models;
4. \$30 utility bill credit for installing two water saving **Rain Barrels**;
5. \$25 utility bill credit per each 10 square feet converting high water using green grass to water thrifty **Xeriscape** landscapes.

### How do I qualify for Utility Bill Credits?

Sign-up for the rebate program of your choice, visit [www.gallupnm.gov](http://www.gallupnm.gov), and type in the "Search Gallup" box: "Rebates" or call 863-1393 for more information.

All utility customers who have old, water guzzling 3.5 gallon per flush (gpf) toilets in their building, with billing accounts in good standing, qualify for a toilet rebate. Buildings in which toilets have already been retrofitted with new 1.6 (gpf) or less toilets do not qualify, since these are already water saving fixtures.

Toilets represent one of the single largest water users inside your home. Get a 63% water savings with new WaterSense certified toilets compared to older than 1994, 3.5 gallon per flush toilets. Call # 863-1393 to find out if your business or residential family can qualify for Toilet & Showerhead Rebates. Get an additional 60% water savings with a new 1.5 gallon per minute (gpm) showerhead and 1/2 gpm faucet aerators.



Look for this Logo on water saving fixtures. WaterSense is a partnership program sponsored by EPA with the goal of protecting the future of the U.S. water supply by promoting and enhancing the market for water efficient products and services. The City of Gallup is a WaterSense partner.



Are you ready to chase down leaks? Household leaks can waste more than 1 trillion gallons of water annually nationwide. Fix the leaks, and save valuable water and money all year long.

Sign up and save \$ and our most precious valuable resource today! \*\*\*

### Homeowners

can save



10 percent on their water bills

## Lead in Home Plumbing

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead).

## Source Water Assessment

A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) is now available at our office. This plan is an assessment of the delineated area around our listed sources through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area, and a determination of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources.

According to the Source Water Assessment Plan, our water system had a susceptibility rating of "medium." If you would like to review the Source Water Assessment Plan, please feel free to contact our office during regular office hours.

## Missed Monitoring

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis, including Disinfection By-products (DBP). While the City did the required number of samplings at the required locations and there were no violations of contaminate levels, the sampling for the first quarter in 2016 was outside of the months on the New Mexico Environment Department schedule for sampling Disinfection By-product rule 2 (DBPR2) of the city water system, and the results are considered invalid. Although these incidents were not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened.

### **What should you do:**

There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take corrective actions. You may continue to drink the water.

### **What is being done:**

The city has since started sampling on the correct months and is now back in compliance.

## Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project

The Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project (NGWSP) was authorized for construction under Public Law 111-11 in March 2009 and is scheduled for completion in 2025.

The City of Gallup has been working on the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project (NGWSP) alongside the United States Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation, State of New Mexico, the Navajo Nation, Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments, Indian Health Services, NTUA and surrounding Chapter House Communities since 2000. The NGWSP project was authorized for construction on March 30, 2009 under PL-111-11. The NGWSP will provide long-term supply, treatment, and transmission of municipal and industrial water to the Navajo Nation, the Jicarilla Apache Nation, and the City of Gallup.

The Gallup Rural Navajo Water Supply Project (GRNWSP) is a major component of the NGWSP and is planned to deliver over 13,000 acre feet of drinking water to the City of Gallup, Navajo Chapters and surrounding rural areas.

## Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of contaminants on a very strict sampling schedule. The information below represents only those substances that were detected; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels. The State recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

We participated in the 3rd stage of the EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR3) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR3 benefits the environment and public health by providing the EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water, in order to determine if EPA needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Contact us for more information on this program.

### REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	2014	15	0	3.7	0.1–3.7	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic (ppb)	2014	10	0	1	ND–1	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Beta/Photon Emitters <sup>1</sup> (pCi/L)	2014	50	0	3.5	0.6–3.5	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2016	[4]	[4]	1.12	0.58–1.12	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2014	5	0	1.19	0.41–1.19	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2014	4	4	0.67	0.56–0.67	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAA] (ppb)	2016	60	NA	4.0	1.76–4.0	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2016	80	NA	31	7.86–31	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH%TILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2015	1.3	1.3	0.04	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2015	15	0	1	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

### UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING RULE – PART 3 (UCMR3)

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH
Molybdenum (ppb)	2013	1.3	ND–1.3
Chlorate (ppb)	2013	36	ND–36
Strontium (ppb)	2013	390	79–390

<sup>1</sup>The MCL for beta particles is 4 mrem/year. U.S. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

## Definitions

**AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**LRAA (Locational Running Annual Average):** The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters. Amount Detected values for TTHMs and HAAs are reported as LRAAs.

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**NA:** Not applicable

**ND (Not detected):** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**pCi/L (picocuries per liter):** A measure of radioactivity.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).